

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
4 December 2003 (04.12.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2003/099997 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C12Q 1/68**,
C07H 21/02, 21/04
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/015906
- (22) International Filing Date: 20 May 2003 (20.05.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/382,359 20 May 2002 (20.05.2002) US
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- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD,
SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US,
UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
— *with international search report*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments*
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:
6 May 2004
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR REGULATION AND MANIPULATION OF STEROIDOGENESIS

(57) Abstract: The steroidogenic acute regulatory protein (StAR), a mitochondrial protein required for stress responses, reproduction, and sexual differentiation of male fetuses is shown to exert its activity transiently at the outer mitochondrial membrane (OMM) rather than in its final resting place in the matrix, and that its OMM residency time and activity are regulated by its speed of mitochondrial import. This may be the first example of a mitochondrial protein exerting its biological activity in a compartment other than that to which it is finally targeted. This unique system which permits steroidogenic cells to initiate and terminate massive levels of steroidogenesis within a few minutes, permitting the rapid regulation of serum steroid hormone concentrations therefore can be manipulated by altering the binding of the leader sequence for the StAR protein to its receptor on the OMM.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/15906

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C12Q 1/68; C07H 21/02, 21/04

US CL : 435/6; 536/23.1, 23.4, 23.5, 24.1, 24.2

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 435/6; 536/23.1, 23.4, 23.5, 24.1, 24.2

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
STN AND WEST.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,194,555 B1 (STOCCO et al.) 27 February 2001 (27.02.2001), see the entire patent.	1-18
A	US 5,872,230 A (STOCCO et al.) 16 February 1999 (16.02.1999), see the entire patent.	1-18

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 January 2004 (12.01.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

12 MAR 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US

Commissioner for Patents

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